

Northbridge Progress Association Inc

Minutes of the General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd, Northbridge on Wednesday September 19 at 8.00pm

Present: 32 members and visitors including Inspector Jeff Bell (North Shore LAC), Helen Deegan (AMPCI) and Ben Chalmers (Northbridge Baths).

Welcome:

Vice president John Holder opened the meeting and welcomed the visitors.

Apologies: John Becroft, Michael Conder, Cr Mary Johnston, Sue and Grant Sheldon, Bruce Wilson (Castlecrag PA).

Previous minutes: The secretary summarized the minutes from the previous meeting. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Meeting held on July 18 2007 be confirmed and signed by the chair.

The chairman thanked Tony Clifford for the selection and purchase of NPA's new PA system, in use for the first time.

Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch (NNW):

Area Coordinator Howard Lardner noted the need for more NNW street coordinators and said that NNW had \$418 in the bank, barely enough for another Crimebuster. He said that at 3pm that afternoon, three youths had tried to hold up the newsagent and a real estate agent at the Junction.

Inspector Jeff Bell said that crime figures from mid-May to mid-September were generally lower than previous periods. However, there were four break-and-enters, all residential and in daylight. There was an armed robbery at Northbridge Hotel in June, the second this year. There were 12 malicious damage offences, mainly car damage and graffiti. The police had some success in drug detection in the LAC and had recently arrested two people for six armed robberies. Insp. Bell asked residents to report all graffiti.

Northbridge Plaza Masterplan process

Malcolm Lye noted that Council's resolution in July had established two committees for the conduct of the Plaza Masterplan, on both of which the community would be represented. NPA had been successful in achieving eight changes to the report that implemented the committees. The most important change was that negotiation of a non-binding agreement over Council's car park land would be deferred until after any approval of a Masterplan. Malcolm noted that despite requests from residents and NPA, AMPCI had not released the questions or results from its telephone survey of residents in July.

Mark Monk (Willoughby Residents Against Plaza Overdevelopment) said that the group was now incorporated and 110 people have registered an interest in membership. He expected to hold a meeting in coming weeks to appoint a committee. He noted that Plaza management appears to have changed strategy with tenants, offering reassurances and longer leases. In response to a question, he said that WRAPO differed from NPA in that it was concerned only with the Plaza issue and represented concerned residents Willoughby-wide.

Helen Deegan (AMPCI) said that Council would be advertising for expressions of interest for community representatives during the next three weeks, with a closing date of October 12. She said that AMPCI now felt it had made a mistake in undertaking to release the results of the residents' survey to residents and they would now be released to the two committees. In response to a question, she said that the Plaza is trying to correct the mix of retailers to meet customer needs.

Northbridge Hotel modifications

A Baringa Rd resident, Simon Alder, outlined the changes proposed by Northbridge Hotel in a recent DA. The gaming and TAB facilities would be moved to the main entrance, an adjacent courtyard smoking area would be developed and the dining room moved upstairs. Baringa Rd residents are concerned about the potential for longer trading hours, increased noise from the courtyard and more demand for parking in the street. Simon said that he was concerned about the change of focus from a family corner pub to a gaming venue. He asked support from NPA to maintain the approval conditions imposed by Council in a previous DA.

John Holder said that NPA's committee would review the DA and consider an appropriate response to Council.

Northbridge Baths

Ben Chalmers, the lessee, spoke about changes at the Baths in the past 12 months. He said it was now a total community facility, including the swimming pool, an upgraded café, a kayak facility and fitness programs. The kayaks had been a great success and would be marketed more extensively in future. Ben also mentioned school carnivals, a Nippers program and the participation of Northbridge Swimming Club and water polo clubs. He said that the Baths hoped to run CPR training and lifesaving programs in future.

In response to questions, Ben said that water quality had been excellent in the past season and that the Baths could stay open as late as 8.30pm in daylight saving. He noted that the diving board had been removed because of excessive cost of liability insurance.

Other Northbridge issues

One resident welcomed a recent RTA decision to stop cars parking on the northern side of Sailors Bay Rd outside the Plaza.

Another resident showed concern about the safety of the dams being developed on Northbridge golf course. The chairman advised that the dams would be fenced for at least one year after completion.

Next general meeting

The next general meeting of NPA will be at 8pm on Wednesday November 28 at St Marks Hall. The meeting would include the Annual General Meeting. A Notice of Meeting would be delivered to every member. The chairman invited residents to nominated members of the Executive Committee.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Refreshments were provided.

Chairman

Date